

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN GERMANY

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USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

SECDEF WASHDC

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CSAF WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT ON MAJOR FOREIGN
POLICY AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ADDRESSED THE
PARLIAMENT OCTOBER 16 AND SPELLED OUT GOG POLICY ON LEADING
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FOREING AND DOMESTIC CONCERNs. THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT

PROVIDE ANY "SURPRISES" BUT RATHER PRESENTED A COHERENT LINE OF ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF ALREADY ANNOUNCED AND ESTABLISHED POLICIES. THE CHIEF OPPOSITION LEADERS SUBSEQUENTLY ALSO PRESENTED THEIR POSITIONS. THE OVERALL IMPRESSION GENERATED BY THESE STATEMENTS WAS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER REMAINS FIRMLY IN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT AND RETAINS HIS POSITION AS THE PARAMOUNT NATIONAL LEADER. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS MADE A MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 16, SPELLING OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES ON MAJOR EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC ISSUES. THE LAST SUCH MAJOR PRESENTATION TO PARLIAMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER WAS MADE ON DECEMBER 11, 1974.

3. IN HIS ONE HOUR AND A QUARTER SPEECH, SPEAKING WITHOUT A TEXT OR EVEN NOTES, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THOSE ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN OF THE MOST CONCERN DURING THE PAST YEAR. (FOR FULL TEXT OF PM'S REMARKS, SEE FBIS 170731Y IN FIVE "TAKES" TRANSMITTED OCTOBER 17.) IN THE FIRST PART OF HIS PRESENTATION, WHICH DEALT WITH FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, CARAMANLIS DISCUSSED GREEK-EC RELATIONS, HIS BALKAN INITIATIVE, CYPRUS AND RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, NATO AND U.S. BASES IN GREECE. ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, HE DISCUSSED THE STATE OF THE GREEK ARMED FORCES, DEJUNTING, THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND THE NECESSITY FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND SOCIAL ORDER.

4. EC. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC WOULD CONSOLIDATE DEMOCRACY, REINFORCE THE NATION'S SECURITY, AND ACCELERATE THE CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT EC MEMBERSHIP WOULD ALSO REFLECT THE FEELING OF THE GREEK PEOPLE THAT GREECE BELONGS TO THE WEST AND ESPECIALLY TO WESTERN EUROPE.

5. BALKANS. CARAMANLIS CITED THE DESIRE TO DISPERSE THE TRADITIONAL CLIMATE OF DISTRUST AND TO INAUGURATE A CLIMATE OF SINCERITY AND COOPERATION AS THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INITIATIVE CALLING FOR COOPERATION AMONG THE BALKAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. HE CHARACTERIZED HIS POLICY AS SUCCESSFUL TO DATE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A BALKAN CONFERENCE WOULD BE CONVENED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

6. NATO. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT GREECE'S DEFENSE POLICY WAS TIED IN WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL

ORIENTATION. HE ASSERTED THAT WHILE GREECE SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL DETENTE IT NEVERTHELESS MUST SEE TO ITS OWN DEFENSE. WHILE ASSURING THE PARLIAMENT THAT GREEK ARMED FORCES CAN EFFECTIVELY DEFEND THE NATION IN THE EVENT OF A LOCAL WAR, HE STATED THAT THE ARMED FORCES MUST HAVE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IN THE CASE OF A GENERAL CONFLICT. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSED GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH NATO. HE REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS LEADING UP TO THE PRESENT SITUATION AND SPELLED OUT HIS CURRENT AIM TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP--WHICH HE COMPARED TO FRANCE AND NORWAY--WHICH WILL GUARANTEE GREECE'S INDEPENDENCE IN PEACE TIME WHILE REINFORCING ITS SECURITY IN TIME OF WAR. HE REITERATED THAT IF THE REASONS WHICH FORCED GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL ARE REMOVED, GREECE CAN REEXAMINE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO.

7. U.S. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REFERRED TO RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND ASSERTED THAT THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT A SIGN OF HOSTILITY TOWARD THE U.S. BUT RATHER REFLECT "THE NEED TO HARMONIZE THE STATUS OF THE BASES WITH CURRENT REALITY AND WITH OUR (GREEK) NATIONAL INTEREST."

8. TURKEY. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ADDRESSED AT SOME LENGTH GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, DISCUSSING BOTH CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN. REGARDING CYPRUS, HE TOOK SPECIAL NOTE THAT THE "OBSTACLES" TO THE DIALOGUE WITH TURKEY (I.E. THE LIFTING OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO AND COMPLETING THE TURKISH SENATE ELECTIONS) HAD BEEN REMOVED AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT TURKISH BEHAVIOR WOULD NOW VINDICATE THOSE WHO BELIEVED THAT IT WAS ONLY THOSE OBSTACLES WHICH HAD PREVENTED TURKISH MOVEMENT TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION. REGARDING THE AEGEAN ISSUE, THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED THAT GREECE DESIRES A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT

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OF ITS DIFFERENCES WITH TURKEY. HOWEVER, HE ALSO WARNED THAT TURKEY WOULD MAKE A GREAT MISTAKE IF IT DOES NOT APPRECIATE GREECE'S GOODWILL OR IF IT EMBARKS ON "AN ADVENTURE."

9. DOMESTIC ISSUES: THE PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO THE DEJUNTING ISSUE AND ASSERTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD CARRIED OUT ALL APPROPRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL SANCTIONS THAT WERE CALLED FOR. "JUSTICE IS DOING ITS DUTY," STATED THE PRIME MINISTER, AND INDICATED THAT FURTHER PROSECUTION OF THE GUILTY WOULD BE SELECTIVE AND NOT IN GROUPS. REGARDING THE TRIAL OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CYPRUS COUP, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT IT CANNOT TAKE PLACE AT THE PRESENT TIME WITHOUT HARMING NATIONAL INTEREST IN THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND THEREFORE MUST

REMAIN IN SUSPENSE.

10. ECONOMIC SITUATION. CARAMANLIS BROKE NO NEW

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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GROUND IN THE BRIEF SECTION OF HIS SPEECH DEVOTED
TO THE ECONOMY. HE REFERRED TO THE WEIGHTY ECONOMIC
BURDENS INHERITED FROM THE JUNTA, AND IMPOSED BY ESSENTIAL
DEFENSE EXPENDITURES OF GREAT MAGNITUDE AND BY THE

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RECESSION. HE CAUTIONED LABOR AGAINST
DISRUPTIVE STRIKES AND EXCESSIVE WAGE DEMANDS, AND PROMISED
THAT CERTAIN SACRIFICES NOW WOULD ASSURE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
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PROGRESS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. WITH RESPECT TO 1975, THE
PRIME MINISTER CITED ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER HIS
GOVERNMENT, NOTING FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING
GOVERNMENT TARGETS IN GNP (REAL GROWTH OF TWO TO THREE PERCENT)
AND COST OF LIVING (LIMITING INCREASE TO 15 PERCENT).

11. CONCLUSION. IN CONCLUSION THE PRIME MINISTER CALLED
FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT BY ALL CITIZENS TO INSURE THAT
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS WAS NOT UNDERMINED. HE MADE
A STRONG STATEMENT ARGUING AGAINST INTERNAL POLITICAL
ANTAGONISMS, ANARCHISTIC MANIFESTATIONS AND SOCIAL UNREST.
HE ASSERTED THAT THE REAL NEED IS FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND
"SOCIAL PEACE." IF THESE CONDITIONS EXIST HE COULD FORESEE
THAT IN ONE TO TWO YEARS GREECE CAN MAKE SPECTACULAR PROGRESS
AND BECOME A MODEL FOR OTHERS.

12. OPPOSITION LEADERS. THE OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS
THEN SPOKE. CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES LEADER MAVROS
ARGUED AGAINST GREECE'S RETURN TO NATO EVEN IF THE
CYPRUS CRISIS WERE SETTLED AND ASSERTED AS WELL THAT
DEJUNTING HAD NOT BEEN CARRIED THROUGH VIGOROUSLY
ENOUGH. PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS
PRESENTATION TO EVENTS RELATING TO THE CYPRUS COUP,
CRITICIZING INTER ALIA THE ALLEGED ROLE OF UNDER SECRETARY SISCO
IN SOME OF THOSE EVENTS. HE REITERATED HIS CALL FOR GREECE TO
FOLLOW A NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY. COMMUNIST PARTY INTERIOR
SPOKESMAN KIRKOS STRESSED IN HIS PRESENTATION THE NEED
FOR GREATER CLEANSING OF JUNTA ELEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE
ARMY, THE SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.
(THE 5 MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY-EXTERIOR BOYCOTTED
THE SESSION BECAUSE, UNDER THE PARLIAMENT'S RULES,
KKE-EEXTERIOR LEADER FLORAKIS WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK.)
SEPTEL WILL FOLLOW WITH A MORE DETAILED TREATMENT OF
CERTAIN SUBJECTS COVERED IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH ARE OF
SPECIAL INTEREST TO US.
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